THE LOVE OF GOD.

God's boundless Love and arching sky

God's tireless Love! Beside the cot Of her sick child the mother sleeps. The Heavenly Father ever keeps Unweary watch—He slumbers not.

God's patient Love! Misunderstood By hearts that suffer in the night. Doubted-yet waiting till Heaven's ligh Shall show how all things work for good.

God's mighty Love! On Calvary's height,

God's changeless Love! The wandering one Forsakes, forgets, dishonors; yet, Repenting, going home, is met With no reproach—"Welcome, My Son!"

God's endless Love! What will it be
When earthly shadows flee away,
For all Eternity's bright day,
The unfolding of that Love to see!
—Maitbie D. Babcock, in Chicago Advance

My Strangest Case

BY GUY BOOTHBY.

Author of "Dr. Kikola," "The Beautiful White Devii," 'Pharos, The Egyptian," Etc.

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CHAPTER IX .- CONTINUED.

"At last I reached the British outpost of Nampoung, on the Burmah-Chinese border, where the officers took me in and played the part of the good Samaritan. When I was well enough to travel, I made my way down to Rangoon, where, still believing my late companions to be dead, I shipped for England."
"As Mr. George Bertram," I said.

"Why under an assumed name, when, according to your story, you had nothing to fear?"

"Because I had good and sufficient reason for so doing." he replied. must remember that I had a quarter of a million's worth of precious stones in my possession, and, well, to put it bluntly, up to that time I had been living what you might call a make-shift sort of life. For the future I told myself I was going to be a rich man. That being so, I wanted to start with a clean You can scarcely blame me!" I did not answer him on this point,

but continued my cross-examination.
"You reached London, and sold some of the stones there, later on you disposed of some more in Amsterdam. Why did you refuse the dealers your name and address?"

Once more he was quite equal to the occasion. "Because if I had told them, everybody would have to know it, and to be perfectly frank with you. I

could not feel quite certain that Kit-water and Codd were really dead." "By that I am to presume that you intended, if possible, to swindle them out of their share?" I asked, not a

surprised by his admission. "Once more, to be frank with you, I did. I have no desire to be rude, but I rather fancy you would have

done the same had you been similarly situated. I never was much of a success in the moral business." I could well believe this, but I did not tell him so.

"When did you first become that they were in London?"
"On the day that they landed," he answered. "I watched every ship from Rangoon, and at that came in from Rangoon, and at last had the doubtful satisfaction of seeing my two old friends pass out of the dock-gates. Poor beggars, they had indeed had a hard

"Then you could pity them? Even

while you were robbing them?"
"Why not?" he answered. "There was no reason because I had the stones that I should not feel sorry for the pain they had suffered. I had to remember how near I'd been to it myself.'

"And pray how did you know that they had called in my assistance?"

What an amount of trouble I should have been spared had I only

"You did not approve, then, of my being imported into the case?"

"I distinctly disapproved," he answered. "I knew your reputation, of course, and I began to see that if you took up their case for them I swered. "I meter was more so. Will

elimb down.' "It is doubtless for that reason you called upon me, representing yourself to be Mr. Bayley, managing director of that South American Mining company? I can now quite "Point out the applicability of the moral concerning the bird in the Mining company? I can now quite moral concerning the bird in the understand your motive. You wanted to get me out of the way in or- can get now, the time may come

that not so? "You hit the nail upon the head exactly. But you were virtuous, and would not swallow the bait. It would "But how am I to know that this

This was news indeed. So he had been aware of my presence there? I that," he said, with a laugh. "I am

put the question to him.

"Oh! Yes! I knew you were there," he said with a laugh. "And I can tell you I did not like the situation one bit. As a matter of fact, I found at the laugh." The said, with a laugh. "I am tor me," I replied. "I am exceedingly obliged to you for your considerate courtesy. Some day I may be able to repay it."

Within half an hour the estimable naturally most anxious to know that Lepallard had been made acquainted to would you like to have me buy you for a maturally most anxious to know that the literature of the said, with a laugh. "I am exceedingly obliged to you for your considerate courtesy. Some day I may be able to repay it."

Moral.—A great deal depends on the dressing.—N. Y. Herald.

Bloodthirsty.

Maiden Aunt—Johnnie, what would you like to have me buy you for a

a disappointment to me. I had expected to see the men I had sent him the work." after you, and instead I found you yourself."

cannot appreciate your actions, I must say I admire your candor. I can also add that in a fairly long experience of-of-"

offended. We have both our own views on this question, and you, of course, are entitled to air yourself if it pleases you. You were about to observe that—"

"That in all my experience I had never met anyone who could so calm- ure ly own to an attempt to murder a fellow-being. But supposing we now come to business."

"With all my heart," he answered. "I am as anxious as yourself to get everything settled. You will admit that it is rather hard lines on a man who can lay his hands upon a quarter of a million of money to have a gentleman like yourself upon his trail, and, instead of being able to enjoy himself, to be compelled to remain continually in hiding. I am an individual who likes to make the ciety of my fellow-men.'

"May we not substitute 'woman?' " asked. "I am afraid your quarter I asked. of a million would not last very long you had much to do with Mlle. Beaumarais.'

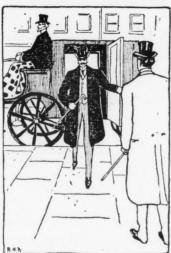
"So you have heard of her, have you?" he answered. "But you need have no fear. Dog does not eat dog, and that charming lady will not despoil me of very much! Now to another matter! What amount do you think your clients would feel inclined to take in full settlement of their

claim upon me?"
"I cannot say," I answered. "How many of the gems have you realized

upon?"
"There were 93 originally," he said, when he had consulted his pocket-book, "and I have sold 60, which leaves a balance of 33, all of which are better than any I have yet disposed of. Will your clients be pre-pared to accept £50,000, of course, given without prejudice?"

"Your generosity amazes me," I answered. "My clients, your partners, are to take £25,000 apiece, while you get off scot-free, after your treatment of them, with £200,-

"They may consider themselves lucky to get anything," he retorted. "Run your eye over the case, and see how it stands. You must know as well as I do that they haven't a leg to stand upon. If I wanted to be nasty, I should say let them prove



A CAB DROVE UP AND THE GENTLE-MAN HIMSELF ALIGHTED

that they have a right to the stones. They can't call in the assistance of the law—" "Why not?"

This speech sounded very pretty. would be necessary for them to ed in his sitting-room. hough somewhat illogical. "A thousand favors, if you wish, they had called in my assistance?"
"Because I kept my eyes on them.
I knew Mr. Kitwater of old, you see.
I watched them go into your office and come out from a shop on the other side of the street."

that would the from a learned judge, and would not improbably lead to a charge of murder being preferred against them.
No, Mr. Fairfax, I know my own business, and, what is better, I know theirs. If they like to take £50,000, theirs. sions, and to call certain evidence from a learned judge, and would not ure of serving you." and will retire into obscurity upon it. I will pay it to them, always through you. But I won't see either of them, and I won't pay a halfpenny more

than I have offered." "You don't mean to tell me that

you are in earnest?" should in all probability have to you place my offer before them, or will you not?"

"I will write and also wire them to-day," I said. "But I think I know

der that I might not hunt you? Is when there may be nothing at all. never was a very patient man, and I have simplified matters from my point of view if you had. I should not have been compelled to waste my money upon those two roughs, nor would you have spent an exceedingly uncomfortable quarter of an hour in that doorway in Holywell street."

This was news indeed. So beta with the control of the c This was news indeed. So he had "Oh you peed?"

and speak to me. I can assure you There is that beautiful myrmidon of of the road to that on which Hayle's the failure of my plot was no end of yours, who is so assiduously making apartments were situated.

I was more than surprised to find that he knew about this business "Upon my word, Mr. Hayle, if I He saw it, and uttered one of his pe culiar laughs.
"He didn't think I knew it," he

arience of—of—"

"Why not say criminals at once, Ir. Fairfax?" he asked, with a mile. "I assure you I shall not be we have both our own was tay in Paris, let him continue my stay in Paris, let him continue was watch me. You know where I am said. "But I did! His cleverness is living, and for that reason you come and see me whenever you like. As a proof of my sincerity, may I suggest that you give me the pleasure of your company at dinner to-night. Oh, you needn't be afraid. I'm not a Caesar Borgia. I shall not poison your meat, and your wine will not be drugged. It will be rather a unique experience, detective and criminal dining together, will it not? What do you say?"

The opportunity was so novel, that I decided to embrace it. Why should I not do so, since it was a very good excuse for keeping my man in sight? He could scarcely play me any tricks main continually in hiding. I am an individual who likes to make the most of his life. I also enjoy the so-city of my fellow man's complex other side of this man's complex I accordingly accepted character. his invitation and promised to meet him at the well-known restaurant he named that evening.

"In the meantime you will telegraph to your clients, I suppose," he said. "You may be able to give me their reply this evening when we

"I shall hope to be in a position to do so," I answered, after which he bade me good-by, and picking up his hat and stick left the room.

I sat down and wrote a letter to Miss Kitwater, telling her all that had occurred; then went out to dis patch it with a telegram to water himself, informing him of the offer Hayle had made. I could guess the paroxysm of rage into which it would throw him, and I would will-ingly have spared his niece the pain such an exhibition must cause her could see no other way out of it, however. The message having been hand be employed upon some profit-dispatched, I settled myself down to able work. A London artist tells of a wait for a reply, with all the patience I could command. In my own mind I knew very well what it would It was not so much the money Kitwater wanted as revenge that That Hayle's most miserable offer would only increase his desire for it, I felt certain. Shortly after three o'clock the reply arrived. It was short and to the point, and ran as

Here was a nice position for a man to find himself in. Instead of

"Tell him I will have all or noth

solving the difficulty we had only increased it. I wondered what Hayle would say when he heard the news, and what his next step would be, sidered ca That he would endeavor to bolt he added: again, I felt quite certain. It was a point in my favor, however, that he would not know until the evening what Kitwater's decision was, so I felt I had still some time to arrange my plan of action. Of one thing I was quite determined, and that was that he should be watched day and night from that minute, but not by That worthy I return to England, and his rage on discovering that Mlle. Beaumarais' maid had tricked him would have been amusing to witness, had the principal event in which I was most concerned not been so grave. The ex-pressions he used about her were certainly far from being complimentary.

Feeling that I must have other as sistance, I set off for my old friend Leglosse's residence. I had the good fortune to meet him by the concierge's lodge, and we ascended the stairs to his rooms together.

"Why not?"

"I have come to ask you to do me
a favor," I said, when we were seat-

cher ami," the old fellow replied.
"Tell me how I can have the pleas-

"I want you to lend me one your men for a few days," I said. have to send my own man back to England, and I am afraid the gentleman we were discussing last night may give me the slip in the mean-time if I'm not careful."

The better to enable him to appreciate the position, I furnished him with a brief summary of the case upon which I was engaged.

"And so you are to dine with your prisoner to-night?" he remarked, with one of his quiet "That is droll-very droll. It is very good for you that it is at such a place, or I should have my doubts as to the rascal's intentions. But you are well able to take care of yourself, my friend; that I know.

"And the man?" "You shall have him. You shall have half a dozen if you like. I am only too pleased to be able to help in such a good work. You shall have Pierre Lepallard, my right-hand. I cannot give you a better. Nothing escapes Pierre, and he is discreet, oh, my friend, he is discreet. will not obtrude himself, but he will know all that your friend does, to whom he speaks, what he said to him, and sometimes even what he intends doing before he does it."

"In that case he is just the man or me," I replied. "I am exceedfor me," I replied.

that it required all my nerve to pre-tend that I did not know it. Every ed. Besides, you can have me ragged tatterdemalion of a man was Jo maxoment I expected you to come out watched, and so make sure of me. selling matches on the opposite side | Times.

I reached the restaurant at which ve were to dine that evening pund tual to the moment, only to find that Havle had not vet arrived. For a minute I was tempted to wonder whether he had given me the slip again, but while the thought was passing through my mind a cab drove up, and the gentleman himself alighted.

"I must beg your pardon for keeping you waiting," he said, apologetically. "As your host I should have been here first. That would have been the case had I not been detained at the last moment by an old friend. Pray forgive me! I consented to do so, and we en-

tered the restaurant together.

I discovered that he had already engaged a table, arranged the menu. bespoken the wines. cordingly sat down, and the strangest meal of which I had ever partaken commenced. Less than a week before the man sitting in front of me had endeavored to bring about my destruction; now he was my host, and to all outward appearances my friend as well. I found him a most agreeable companion, a witty conversationalist, and a born raconteur. He seemed to have visited every part of the known globe; had be sailor, a revolutionist America, a blackbirder in the Pacific, had seen something of what he called the "pig-tail trade" to Borneo some very queer life in India, that is to say, in the comparatively unknown native states, and had come

the French during the war in Mada-[To Be Continued.]

within an ace of having been shot by

BUSINESS CONSCIENCE.

Queer Distinction Made by London Clock Makers in Some of Their Work,

The Sunday morals of many a community are an improvement those of ordinary work days. Somethe hand is busy, particularly if the curious incident that came under his notice some little while ago, says Youth's Companion.

"I had an old English bracket clock that I took myself to a wholesale firm of clock-makers to be repaired. Whilst in the shop I noticed a peculiar piece puzzled me, so I sought for informa-

"'Oh!' replied one of the firm, 'that's special order for a temple in China; it is to work an idol and make him

move.'
"Presumably that clock-maker was an excellent Christian in his own estimation. I do not know whether there was anything in my look that he considered called for an explanation, but

"'Business is business, you know. You'd be astonished to learn what funorders we have sometimes in our trade. Only the other day a firm asked us if we would make some imitation "genuine" Elizabethan clocks; they ent us one to copy. But we replied so far conducted our business honestly, and intended always to do so.'

'So, according to the ethics of our informant, it is not dishonest to make clockwork intended secretly to make an idol move, but it is dishonest to make imitation mediaeval clocks!"

The Eyes of a Lion,

One night when some troopers were encamped in South Africa, it came the urn of Rennie Stevenson to go for water to the spring, which was about a thousand yards distant. He describe the experiences in his booy, "Through Rhodesia." A comrade volunteered to accompany him. When they were nearing the spring, this man whispered to

"There's a lion skulking in the un-

through the dark.

"Shall I fire?" whispered the sol-"Yes, fire, but take good aim.

you only wound it, we will be done The trooper knelt and took a long,

steady aim.

Bang! The sound of the shot reverberated through the surrounding trees and up the river. But there were

the eyes, still gleaming.
Stevenson asked for the rifle and crawled nearer, trying to get a better shot. Closer and closer went the two, their hearts in their mouths. Suddenly, when they thought they were almost in the face of the "lion," they found the "eyes" to be two glowworms The alarmingly bright little creatures had not felt it necessary to get out of the way.

The Maid and the Luncheon

Once upon a time there was a young man who cared very little for the society of women, and found no pleasure in their company, until he met a young lady who was clothed in silk, satin, velvet, lace and jewels, and made an exceedingly fine appearance. She received his attentions very graciously, and after a short acquaintance accepted an invitation to the theater. When the play was over they went to a restaurant for a luncheon. "Isn't this salad fine?" he asked

sne answered, "the lovely mayonnaise makes it just delicious. Moral.—A great deal depends on the dressing.—N. Y. Herald.

Johnnie-An anteater, please.-N. Y

PUZZLE PICTURE.



A GHOSTLY MANIFESTATION.

The Remarkable Story Related by a Washington Man About a Mandolin,

Washington gentleman who has given considerable attention to the investigation of spiritualism, "to metal strings. It was not a melody, trace to natural causes the source of supposed supernatural sounds and been strummed several times by ghostly manifestation based upon a loud and distinct.
tragedy. It is for psychological "Their shrieks of terror brought students to determine the cause, as the rest of the family, including my-I have no explanations or sugges-

mine had been presented with a man-dolin by a teacher of music of whom she was very fond. He was an elderly man of family, who esteemed her as his own child. Unhappily he be-came a victim of intemperate habits, and lost his pupils and property in

"One night after my aunt and niece had retired the former was awakened by what, as she positively declared, was the unmistakable impress of a human hand upon her own hand and arm, which were thrown over the coverlet of the bed. Very much startled and frightened she sat erect. In the faint light of the gas jet. turned down low, she observed that the hands of the clock on the mantlepiece pointed to the hour of 11. Almost simultaneously my niece awoke with a loud cry of terror and, clinging to her mother, she said that some one had shaken her by the arm. Both mother and daughter were awakened out of a sound sleep at the same moment by a similar manifestation of some apparently physical force, as it would have been sible for one to have seized the other

"As the terrified girl was relating her experience and sensations the sound of music came from a closet in the far corner of the room, the door of which was open, and in which was the mandolin given to her by the "It is sometimes possible," said a professor, strapped in its box. The music was the unmistakable twang music was the unmistakable twang but was as though the strings had manifestations. I am reminded of a tips of the fingers. The sound was

self, to their room. An investigation tions to offer beyond the mere rectant of the actual facts, which, by the way, happened in this city," says the way, happened in this city," says the case the mandolin and its strings case the mandolin and its strings case the mandolin to be in perfect con-

"On the following day it was learned that the professor had committed suicide in a fit of despondency, and at an hour which tallied with that when my aunt and niece had been so rudely awakened and the strings of the mandolin had been struck within its securely fastened

"This instance I do not attempt to explain, further than to reassert that the facts are as I have given them."

Another Rash Break

"I think the 17-year locust is an interesting study," observes the lady of uncertain age.
"It must be," we answer thought-

lessly, "especially to one who has traced them down from generation to generation."

But, of course, it was her own fault that she took it personally.—Baltimore American.

His Retort.

She (in the midst of the quarrel)-Oh! I wish I were a man! He-So do I! You'd have me to fight. right now!-Puck.

PRACTICAL FIRE **PRECAUTIONS**

in the manner described.

BY WILLIAM H. MUSHAM, General Supt. Chicago Fire Departmen

THERE IS NO EARTHLY EXCUSE FOR THE MAJOR PART OF THE FIRES WHICH CONSUME HOUSES AND BUSINESS PROPERTY. They might easily be avoided by the exercise of a little Ordinary Precaution. It is too much to demand perfection from human beings, and

a certain amount of carelessness regarding fire precautions must be expected. But there is a limit which we may, in human reason, ex-Yes, there were its eyes, gleaming pect to have observed. First in the list of precautions let me put THE BANISHMENT OF GASOLENE—the terror of the Fire Fighter and the underwriter. The use of this volatile fluid should be If prohibited by law. Keep it outside your buildings. The fumes which evaporate from it will travel straight across a wide room to a lighted gas jet and cause an explosion. It is a terrible waster of life and property. Don't trifle with it within doors. Keep it outside and use it outside-if at all. Scores of firemen have gone down before this Destroyer.

KEEP YOUR WASTE OF EVERY SORT IN AN IRON RE-CEPTACLE; have no corners or boxes into which you throw "stuff." This material will breed flames sooner or later. Dirty corners under stairways are literally fire traps.

SWINGING GAS JETS CAUSE HUNDREDS OF FIRES. The jets should be so fixed that they CANNOT swing against combustible material.

GREAT CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN STARTING FIRE-PLACES WHICH HAVE BEEN OUT OF SERVICE FOR MONTHS OR WEEKS. First see that the flues are cleaned and in condition. Then have the initial fire a very moderate one.

MANY FIREPLACES ARE FUNDAMENTALLY UNSAFE. having only a thin layer of bricks between

structed on an arch of brick. Steam pipes coming in direct contact with wood are another source of frequent fires. The wood becomes charred and finally

Look out for these things, see that chilthat adults do not throw matches about mis-

dren are not allowed to handle matches, and cellaneously, and the number of fires will be greatly diminished.

